(b) what action has been taken so far; and

(c) what decisions have been taken in regard to their employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While, the legal process of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines into a new company called the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has been completed, the complete merger of the two airlines is likely to be achieved over 18 to 24 months.

(c) Due care has been given to the interest of the Employees in the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All employees of the erstwhile Indian Airlines Limited and Air India Limited have become employees of NACIL without any breach or interruption of service and on terms and conditions not less favourable then those applicable to them on the date of amalgamation. A-3-tier Grievance Redressal Machinery has also been put into place to address employee grievances.

Congestion at Airports

1492. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in general and the airports in metro cities in particular are very much crowded and congested;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing infrastructural facilities are totally inadequate and are unable to absorb the unpreacedented inflow of passengers on the one side and the entry of number of private operators on the other;

(c) what are the short term/long term measures to tide over the situtation; and

(d) whether there would be a time frame before which the magnitude of the problem can be mitigated and managed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Due to the unprecedented surge in the traffic during the last three years, there is a limitation of airports infrastructure, especially at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated major development works and necessary projections have already been made in the 11th Five Year Plan.

To cope up with the spurt in air traffic, following specific actions have been/are being taken-Construction of new terminals, expansion of existing terminals, Construction of additional aircraft parking stands for over night parking, Construction of new rapid exist and parallel taxiways to enhance runway capacity, introduction of new ATC procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) and Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airports, posting of additional ATC officers in ATC units, ban on general aviation and during peak hours at IGI and CSI Airports, modernisation and development of IGI and CSI Airports through Joint Venture Companies and Construction of Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership.

Services at Delhi Airport

1493. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services at the Delhi airport have deteriorated further after privatisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that space, which was kept for the seating of passengers, has been converted into shops, restaurants, etc. thereby causing great discomfort to the passengers; and